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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, MONDAY,
OCTOBER 1, 1962, 12:15 P.M.

MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, I'd like to take this opportunity to say how deeply saddened and shocked all those in the Department are who had the good fortune to know intimately Maurice S. Rice, the United States Consul General in Venice, who died of a heart attack in St. Marks Square on Saturday. Our hearts go out to his family. Maury, as he was affectionately known by all of us, personified the best in newspaperman turned diplomat.

He served his country and his fellow men with honor and with distinction. We have suffered a personal loss, but the memories of his kindness and his wonderful spirit will live on. Maury, former newspaperman and editor, served as field representative of the US Office of War Information in Egypt and Italy during World War II. He later was named Director of the US Information Service in Belgrade. He transferred to the Department in August 1945 as Chief of Outpost, Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs.

Mr. Rice was appointed Chief of the European branch, Public Affairs Overseas Program Staff in 1948. He

A I don't have that rundown yet, Jim.

Q Do you expect to have it later today?

A We will make an effort to do so.

Q Linc, the Communist Chinese News Agency is quoted today as saying over Peiping Radio that the last Vietnamese military advisers have now been withdrawn from Laos. Do you have any information on that, or comment?

A I'd rather defer on that. I asked for something. I don't have it as yet.

Q Can you put in perspective for us some of the reports over the week end about an informal invitation to the President by Mr. Khrushchev to visit Moscow?

A Yes. In casual conversation with Mr. Udall, the possibility of a visit by the President to Moscow at some time was mentioned by Mr. Khrushchev. I understand in the same casual way it was mentioned to Mr. Frost and to Mr. Salinger when they were in Moscow. However, the point I'd like to emphasize is there is nothing which we consider as a formal or indeed an informal invitation which has been extended.

Q Linc, you said the invitation, the suggestion was for sometime. Was it after the elections, I presume?

A No time was mentioned, just at sometime.

Q Linc, this casual, whatever it is, conversation, was it specifically about the Kennedy visit to the Soviet

Union or a get-together, whether there or here? What I'm driving at is there is still speculation he is coming over to the UN, and then they might visit.

A Well, sure, there is continued speculation on that. To my knowledge, we have nothing firm one way or the other on it. As to the meeting, I haven't the faintest idea.

Q But during these casual conversations, Khrushchev mentioned--

A There is no mention, to my knowledge.

Q --Kennedy's possible visit to the Soviet Union.

A Possible visit at some time to the Soviet capital.

Q Linc, any intention to recognize the new Yemen regime?

A We are following developments over there as closely as we can, communications being as sparse as they are, but I know of nothing in that direction in the absence of certainly a lot more information than we have.

Q Do we have there actually a permanent staff?

A No. As I understand it, there is no foreign representation up at Sana. There is at, what's the name of the other?

MR. REAP: Taiz.